

Message Text

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SUBJ: UPPER HOUSE DISCUSSION OF KIM CASE - AUGUST 30

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE SESSIONS AUGUST 30 CENTERED ON GOJ EFFORTS TO CLARIFY KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE AND SECURE HIS RETURN TO JAPAN. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, FONMIN OHIRA CONTINUED TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN KIM CASE AND JAPAN'S LARGER INTERESTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN KOREAN PENINSULA. IN JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, MINJUSTICE ISAJI TANAKA VOICED OUTRAGE THAT ROKG HAS NOT ALLOWED KIM TAE-CHUNG AND TWO OTHER OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS YANG IL-DONG AND KIM KYONG-IN TO RETURN TO JAPAN. FOR MOMENT, AT LEAST, DECISIONS TAKEN IN CCP CONGRESS IN PEKING, HAVE DISPLACED KIM CASE FROM TOP PLACE IN CONTINUING INTENSE MEDIA COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONDING TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS DURING LENGTHY SESSION OF UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION AUGUST 30, FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. OHIRA SAID THAT ROKG HAS NOT STATED QTE ABSOLUTELY UNQTE THAT IT COULD NOT ACCEDE TO PERSISTENT GOJ
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DEMANDS THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO JAPAN TO

FACILITATE JAPANESE INVESTIGATION OF CASE, FOR WHICH REASON HE ENCOURAGED TO CONCLUDE THAT IT NOT QTE ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE UNQTE THAT KIM MIGHT DO SO. OHIRA NOTED THAT ROKG, IN ITS RESPONSE, HAS ONLY SAID THAT IT COULD NOT ACCEDE TO JAPANESE DEMAND SINCE IT STILL CONDUCTING OWN INVESTIGATION.

2. OHIRA ALSO CATEGORICALLY DENIED OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS THAT JAPAN, ROK AND US HAVE REACHED TACIT UNDERSTANDING TO WHITEWASH ENTIRE CASE. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND JCP SPOKESMAN DAY BEFORE DISMISSED ROK REPORT TO JAPAN ON KIM CASE, STATING THAT IT OBVIOUS THAT QTE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION UNQTE CONNECTED WITH ROKG IS INVOLVED IN CASE.

3. QUESTIONED BY SANSHICHI HANYU (JSP) ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KIM CASE AND GOJ POSITION IN FORTHCOMING UNGA, OHIRA STATED THAT KOREAN QUESTION SHOULD BE DECIDED IN TERMS OF HIGHER LEVEL OBJECTIVE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN KOREAN PENINSULA TO WHICH HE SAID KIM CASE IS UNRELATED.

4. ASKED BY HANYU WHETHER GOJ WOULD ACCEPT POSSIBLE ROK DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT OF KCIA IN KIM CASE, OHIRA REPLIED THAT GOJ SHOULD MAKE OWN JUDGMENT, BASED ON OWN INVESTIGATION. THAT REASON WHY, OHIRA EXPLAINED, GOJ HAS PERSISTENTLY REQUESTED ROKG TO PROVIDE FULLEST DATA AND TO PERMIT DIRECT QUESTIONING OF THOSE INVOLVED BY JAPANESE AUTHORITIES.

5. REFERRING TO REPORTS THAT LEE HU-RAK STATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY EVEN IF ONLY ONE KCIA AGENT INVOLVED IN KIM CASE, OHIRA SAID THAT GOJ NOT ASKING ROKG HOW IT WOULD DEAL WITH CASE, BUT RATHER HAS PRESSED ROKG TO PROVIDE JAPAN FULL DATA ESSENTIAL FOR JAPANESE INVESTIGATION. OHIRA REITERATED THAT GOJ WISHES TO CLARIFY FACTS OF CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT GOJ POLICY IS TO JUDGE CASE ITSELF ON BASIS OF OWN INVESTIGATION.

6. IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY TSUTOMU HOSHINO (JCP2 FONMIN) OHIRA ASSESSED RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR USHIROKU MEETING WITH KIM TAE-CHUNG IN SEOUL AS CONFIRMING, FIRST OF ALL, KIM'S WELL-BEING, AND SECOND HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TO JAPAN IF POSSIBLE.

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FURTHER, HE SAID THAT EFFORT TO ARRANGE EARLY MEETING INDICATED DEGREE OF ROKG CONSIDERATION OF GOJ POSITION. NOW THAT KIM HAS EXPRESSED OWN DESIRE ON SUBJECT OF RETURN, OHIRA SAID THAT ONLY OTHER PROBLEM REMAINING IS TOKG POSITION ON APPROVAL OF KIM TRAVEL.

7. HOSHINO, CHARGING THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY SEOUL REFUSED TO CONNECT HIS TELEPHONE CALL TO AMBASSADOR USHIROKU

DAY KIM TAE-CHUNG SURFACED IN SEOUL, ASKED WHETHER MOFA HAD INSTRUCTED EMBASSY TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN CASE. OHIRA, PRAISING USHIROKU FOR UNFLAGGING EFFORTS DAY AND NIGHT, DENIED ISSUING ANY SUCH INSTRUCTIONS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO HOSHINO DEMAND THAT MOFA RECALL USHIROKU FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SITUATION, OHIRA SAID THAT HE WOULD WISH TO RECALL AMBASSADOR TEMPORARILY TO CONSULT QTE SHOULD NECESSITY TO DO SO ARISE UNQTE.

9. OHIRA ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND MEANING OF MINJUSTICE STATEMENT TO PRESS AUGUST 29 T T GOJ WOULD NOT SEEK QTE POLITICAL SOLUTION UNQTE TO KIM CASE, AND REITERATED THAT GOJ POLICY IS TO CLARIFY CASE ON BASIS OF TRUTH.

10. MEANWHILE, IN UPPER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SESSION SHIZUKO SASAKI (JSP) CHARGED THAT GOJ IS TRYING TO QTE CAMOUFLAGE UNQTE RATHER THAN CLARIFY FACTS OF KIM CASE. MINJUSTICE TANAKA REPLIED THAT GOJ TAKING CONSISTENT POSITION, I.E., SEEKING RETURN TO JAPAN OF KIM TAE-CHUNG, YANG IL-DONG AND KIM KYONG-IN FOR INVESTIGATION. MINJUSTICE SAID THAT ROK REFUSAL TO AGREE TO RETURN ABOVE THREE UP TO NOW QTE OUTRAGEIOUS UNQTE, BUT HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT JAPAN HAS NO RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO DEMAND THEIR RETURN AT PRESENT STAGE, CONSIDERING ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF ROKG INTERVENTION IN JAPAN. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF CLOSE JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS, MINJUSTICE STRESSED THAT ROK DOES HAVE MORAL OBLIGATION TO RETURN ABOVE THREE. MINJUSTICE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROK WOULD DO SO, APART FROM CONSIDERATIONS OF CLOSE RELATIONS AND JAPAN'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ROK.

11. SASAKI ALSO EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH SKIMPINESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF REPORT OF ROK INVESTIGATION OF KIM CASE PROVIDED JAPAN, AND ASKED WHETHER ENTIRE TEXT RELEASED. MOFA ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU COUNSELOR YOSUKE NAKAE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT ENTIRE TEXT HAD BEEN RELEASED.

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